

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 7, 2007. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 remain in the application. Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4 to 6, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, Claims 1 and 5 were rejected for the preamble allegedly being unclear as to whether the claims are directed to a method or an apparatus. The rejections are traversed since the claims are clear on their face that they are directed to a method, which is performed in an information processing apparatus (Claim 1) or which is performed in a management apparatus (Claim 5).

The remaining § 112 rejections were based on an alleged lack of antecedence and where appropriate, the points noted have been attended to by amendment. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,643,652 (Helgeson). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns processing an object generated in a three-dimensional virtual space by a plurality of computers that share the three-dimensional virtual space. According to the invention, an information processing apparatus acquires a unique ID that uniquely identifies the information processing apparatus from a management apparatus. The information processing apparatus then generates the object in the three-dimensional virtual space, and generates identification information of the

generated object based on the unique information. The apparatus transmits the identification information with object information necessary for causing the management apparatus to generate the object in the three-dimensional virtual space presented by the management apparatus, to the management apparatus. The management apparatus can then provide the object to other apparatuses so they can perform the same object processing on the object. As a result, each object generated in each one of a plurality of information processing apparatuses will have a unique identification information so that arbitration of object IDs between devices can be obviated.

With specific reference to the claims, Claim 13 is directed to an information processing system comprising a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected through a network to share a three-dimensional virtual space, each of the information processing apparatuses comprising, an acquisition unit that acquires unique information from a management information processing apparatus connected through the network, wherein the unique information uniquely identifies the information processing apparatuses on the network, an object generation unit that generates an object in the three-dimensional virtual space, an identification information generation unit that generates identification information of the object generated by the object generation unit based on the unique information processing apparatus, and a transmitting unit that transmits the identification information with object information necessary for causing another information processing apparatus to generate the object in the three-dimensional virtual space presented by the another information processing apparatus, to the management information processing apparatus through the network, and the management information processing apparatus managing the plurality of information processing apparatuses, the management information

processing apparatus comprising, a unique information determination unit that determines unique information for each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses, a sending unit that sends each of the unique information determined by the determination unit for each of the information processing apparatus to the corresponding one of the information processing apparatuses, and a receiving unit that receives the object information relating to the object processed in the three-dimensional virtual space presented by each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses with the identification information.

Claim 1 is a method claim directed to the information processing apparatus side, while Claim 5 is a method claim directed to the management information processing apparatus side. Claims 10 and 11 are apparatus claims that substantially correspond to Claims 1 and 5, respectively, and Claim 8 is a computer medium claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 1.

The applied art of Helgeson is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 13, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a plurality of information processing apparatuses sharing a three-dimensional virtual space, and one of the information processing apparatuses transmitting unique identification information acquired from a management apparatus with object information necessary for causing another information processing apparatus to generate an object in a three-dimensional virtual space presented by the another information processing apparatus, to the management/another information processing apparatus through the network.

Helgeson merely discloses a system for exchanging data over the Internet between platforms with different hardware. A predefined stylesheet is used to translate an object received from a first system that uses a first system-specific local format to a generic interchange format. The generic interchange format of the object is then translated into a second system-specific local format, again using the predefined stylesheet. The translated data object is then transferred to the second system. Thus, while Helgeson may translate objects and transfer them between different systems, Helgeson is not seen to teach that the computers share a three-dimensional virtual space, or that one of the information processing apparatuses transmitting unique identification information acquired from a management apparatus with object information necessary for causing another information processing apparatus to generate an object in a three-dimensional virtual space presented by the another information processing apparatus, to the management/another information processing apparatus through the network.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 13, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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